

Finally, I wish to salute the families, scout leaders, and the Girl Scout Council of the Nation's Capital who have provided these young women with continued support and encouragement.

It is with great pride that I submit a list of this year's Girl Scout Gold Award recipients from the State of Maryland, and I ask that the list be printed in the RECORD.

The material follows:

GIRL SCOUT COUNCIL OF THE NATION'S
CAPITAL

Breton Aulick, Rebecca Bensur, Jacquelyn Blaser, Brianna Blaser, Kristen Bowen, Arianne Boylan, Christine Chase, Heather Ann Church, Kimberly Crowder, Margaret Eaton-Sainers, Carlita Fletcher, Jessica Gaines, Brianna Gibson, Kathleen Henley, Kishuana Jarmon, Gretchen Kallemyn.

Lyndsay Madden, Grace McCann, Jennifer McKelvey, Jennifer Miller, Laura Murray, Linda Jean Rinko, Janis Sanders, Alea Lu Schroeder, Jana Siskind, Kelsi Stembel, Andrea Stuart, Tanya Wessells, Denise White.●

WE THE PEOPLE . . . THE
CITIZENS AND THE CONSTITUTION

● Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, I want to commend 25 outstanding students from West Warwick High School in West Warwick, RI, who will be visiting Washington later this month to compete in the national finals of the "We The People . . . The Citizens And The Constitution" program.

For those of my colleagues who are not familiar with it, the "We The People . . . The Citizens And The Constitution" program is among the most extensive educational programs in the country, developed to educate young people about the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. The three-day national competition simulates a congressional hearing in which students' oral presentations are judged on the basis of their knowledge of constitutional principles and their ability to apply these principals to contemporary situations.

Administered by the Center for Civic Education, the "We The People . . . The Citizens And The Constitution" program provides an excellent opportunity for students to gain an informed perspective on the significance of the U.S. Constitution and its place in our history. We hear so much these days about growing apathy and ignorance among young people about our history and governmental traditions. In my view, programs such as this can go a long way to combat these ills. It is heartening to see young Rhode Islanders taking such an active and participatory interest in public affairs.

Mr. President, you may be interested to know that West Warwick High School has an outstanding track record in the "We The People . . . The Citizens And The Constitution" program. The West Warwick team has won the Rhode Island State competition for 7 of the past 10 years.

I am very proud of Jamie Amaral, Mary Asselin, Jonathan Bassi, Justin

Broz, John Caressimo, Brian Carr, Andrew Constanza, Krystle Couto, Bethany DeBlois, Candice Felske, John Johnson, Jonathan Juneau, Jamie Kullberg, Kristin Larocque, Gina Musto, Meghan O'Brien, Ryan O'Grady, Stephanie Paquet, Erica Ricci, Hillary Sisson, Derek Tevyaw, Kevin Willette, Kristen Wolslegel, Man Yu, and Debra Zenofsky for making it to the national finals. I applaud this terrific group of young men and women for their hard work and perseverance. Also, Mr. President, I want to congratulate Michael Trofi, a fine teacher who deserves so much credit for guiding the West Warwick High School team to the national finals.

As Mr. Trofi and this fine group of West Warwick High School students prepare for their trip to Washington to compete in the national finals on April 26-28, I want to congratulate them for what they have already achieved and wish them the best of luck in the final competition. These students, with the guidance of Mr. Trofi, have learned what our Nation is all about and what countless men and women have fought and died to protect. No matter what the outcome of the contest is, they have each earned the greatest prize of all: Knowledge.●

SUPPORTING NETDAY

● Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to alert this body to a very special event, which took place this past weekend, called NetDay. NetDay, which began in 1996, is a unique partnership between the public, private and educational communities with the common goal of fitting K-12 classrooms with the technological infrastructure needed for the 21st century.

In the beginning of this year, on behalf of myself, Senator JOHN WARNER, Senator CONRAD BURNS, Senator CHARLES ROBB, Senator PATTY MURRAY, and Senator BARBARA BOXER, I introduced Sense of the Senate Resolution 51, celebrating the success of NetDay activities and encouraging all schools to participate in 1997 NetDay activities, including the projects which took place this past weekend. As I did in February of this year, when I introduced the NetDay resolution, I would like to again commend the organizers and volunteers of NetDay, an excellent example of individuals creating a stronger community with the goal of increasing the quality of their schools.

The success of this weekend was impressive. Although it is still too early to cite official statistics of Saturday's event, NetDay organizers have stated that "schools up and down the State, in isolated towns in the north, farming towns in the central valley, and hundreds in urban communities all participated in NetDay." In addition, the 38 empowerment zone schools of the Los Angeles Unified School District were involved in NetDay activities and future planning. Last year alone, NetDay was successful in bringing out more

than 100,000 Americans, including 50,000 Californians to volunteer in their neighborhood schools. These students, teachers, parents, and friends of the schools, came to wire classrooms and school libraries throughout the Nation. Thousands of individuals accomplished their goal to install communications cables, connect wires and switches to upgrading their schools for the 21st century.

The success of NetDay is significant. Last year, over 25,000 elementary, junior and senior high schools were wired. I expect these numbers to dramatically increase as NetDay organizer compile results from Saturday's activities. Throughout the United States, volunteers climbed ladders and got on their hands and knees to install the wiring infrastructure needed to connect thousands of elementary and secondary school classrooms with contemporary technology.

As I have mentioned in earlier floor speeches, NetDay began in California on March 9, 1996. The term was coined by cofounders John Gage of Sun Microsystems, one of the Nation's leading technology companies and Michael Kaufman of KQED, a California public broadcasting station. Mr. Gage and Mr. Kaufman saw this initiative as a day where hundreds of Californians came out to an "old fashioned barn raising for the modern technology age."

Just as volunteers would gather in the Nation's early years, with neighbor helping neighbor, to build homes, barns or community buildings, California's NetDay volunteers gather in support of neighborhood schools. Amazingly, and to their surprise, NetDay succeeded in one year in wiring 3,500 schools efficiently and cost-effectively, establishing and improving our classroom information infrastructure up and down the State.

However, as our classrooms continue to modernize and improve their technological infrastructure there is much work to be accomplished, both in California and throughout the Nation. Consider the following:

According to the Department of Education half of our K-12 schools lack full access to advance technology in the classroom.

Ninety-five percent of those K-12 schools who want to but are not yet wired, do not have the needed budgetary resources or organized volunteer base to wire their schools.

Rural areas and regions with high poverty continue to have less access to advanced educational technology compared to their suburban and urban counterparts.

These few points illustrate that there is still much to be done in our children's classrooms. NetDay organizers are committed to working with underserved neighborhoods and ensuring that the appropriate resources, both in volunteers and computer wiring kits, are channels to these communities. In addition, this year's NetDay will focus on communities that did not fully benefit from last years initial set of